## **ASSOCIATION OF FARMWORKER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS**

1120 20<sup>th</sup> Street N.W., Suite 300 South, Washington, D.C. 20036 • Main: 202.384.1754

### **UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

National Farmworker Training Program

EPA Grant #83597001

Year 4

ANNUAL REPORT

(October 2018 - September 2019)

Submitted by Melanie Forti, Health & Safety Programs Director, AFOP November 27, 2019



#### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this grant is to train farmworkers in pesticide safety and heat stress prevention topics, with emphasis on the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), Limiting Exposures Around Families (LEAF) and Heat Stress Prevention (HSP).

On the fourth year of this cooperative agreement, our goal was to train a total of 28,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers through AFOP's National Farmworker Training Program (NFTP).

Every year, NFTP training year starts in January and ends in October. Every NFTP trainer gets trained annually on the diverse training topics they will be providing the farmworker community. The pesticide safety and heat stress prevention trainings include:

- Worker Protection Standard (WPS)
- Limiting [pesticide] Exposure Around Families (LEAF)
- Pesticide Exposure & Pregnancy (PEP)
- Jose Learns About Pesticides /Jose Aprende Sobre los Pesticidas (JA)
- Heat Stress Prevention (HSP)

Trainers work closely with agricultural employers, their local county extension agents, growers' associations, local Farm Bureaus, faith-based organizations and community-based migrant service providers to gain access to workers. These partnerships have been successful in providing annual safety training to migrant workers as they arrive for the seasonal harvests. For example: prior to providing an EPA approved training funded and non-funded by this grant, trainers get in contact with growers to offer the trainings free of charge. Also, trainers get involved in agricultural and community events where they network, partner, collaborate and work with local government agencies such of DOA, Agriculture Extension, Farm Bureaus, etc. These relationships are ongoing and are difficult to track by date because the collaboration is ongoing.

The training is delivered to groups, most often at the worksite, which could be a lettuce field or peach orchard, for example. Trainers are prepared to deliver an interactive training session using the materials we have provided, and rely upon role play, demonstrations, discussions, storytelling, and games.

The training is conducted most often in Spanish. Occasionally it is presented in English, and recently trainers have had to arrange interpreters for workers who speak only Haitian Creole, or an indigenous language from Latin America such as Mixtec.

#### **PROJECT STATUS**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> year of this grant, AFOP was able to exceed each one of its proposed deliverables. AFOP was able to recruit 28 participating sites in 28 states, with a network of 253 trainers that have been certified by AFOP and some states to provide Worker Protection Standard, Heat Stress Prevention, and other pesticide safety trainings.

# **AFOP'S NFTP PARTICIPATING SITES INCLUDE:**

	STATE	ORGANIZATION	# of Trainers		STATE	ORGANIZATION	# of Trainers
1	AL	Telamon Corp	4	15	NE	Proteus, Inc.	10
2	CA	Proteus, Inc.	1	16	NJ	PathStone Corp.	6
3	DE	Telamon Corp.	4	17	NM	Help NM, Inc.	14
4	GA	Telamon Corp.	5	18	NY	PathStone Corp.	19
5	IA	Proteus, Inc.	12	19	ОН	PathStone Corp.	13
6	IL	Illinois Migrant Council	6	20	OK	ORO Development Corp.	2
7	IN	Proteus, Inc.	9	21	PA	PathStone Corp.	8
8	LA	MET, Inc.	4	22	PR	PathStone Corp.	32
9	MD	Telamon Corp.	5	23	TX	MET, Inc.	33
10	ME	Eastern Maine Development Corp.	2	24	VA	Telamon Corp.	4
11	MN	MET, Inc.	10	25	VT	PathStone Corp.	2
12	MT	Rural Employment Opportunities	4	26	WA	Opportunities Industrialization Ctr.	25
13	NC	Telamon Corp.	9	27	WV	Telamon Corp.	1
14	ND	MET, Inc.	7	28	WY	MET, Inc.	3

# **TRAININGS**

AFOP conducted a total of 10 train-the-trainer sessions. Two sessions were in-person, the rest via webinar. Please note that some trainers attended webinar multiple times.

Date of TTT	Training Location	Type of Training	Trainer's Name	Total of Attendees	Training Topics Provided
7/11/2019	AFOP	Webinar	Vashti Kelly	12	WPS, Heat Stress, LEAF, PEP, Jose Aprende
6/6/2019	AFOP	Webinar	Vashti Kelly	15	WPS, Heat Stress, LEAF, PEP, Jose Aprende
4/4/2019	AFOP	Webinar	Vashti Kelly	41	WPS, Heat Stress, LEAF, PEP, Jose Aprende
3/14/2019	NC - Telamon Corp.	On-site	Vashti Kelly	10	WPS, Heat Stress, LEAF, PEP, Jose Aprende
1/16/2019	OH - PathStone Corp.	On-site	Melanie Forti	28	WPS
1/7/2019	AFOP	Webinar	Vashti Kelly	57	WPS, Heat Stress
1/8/2019	AFOP	Webinar	Vashti Kelly	50	WPS, Heat Stress
1/23/2019	AFOP	Webinar	Vashti Kelly	10	WPS, Heat Stress
1/11/2019	AFOP	Webinar	Vashti Kelly	40	WPS, Heat Stress, LEAF, PEP, Jose Aprende
1/17/2019	AFOP	Webinar	Vashti Kelly	11	WPS, Heat Stress, LEAF, PEP, Jose Aprende

This year, AFOP was able to train a total of 37,015 farmworkers through its network of trainers. The planned goal was 28,000.

	YEAR 4								
DELIVERABLES	Planned: 4 <sup>nd</sup> Year		Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	TOTAL YTD		
Site Recruitment		30	27	28	28	28	28		
	GOAL: 28,000	WPS	1,099	2,108	3,696	5,194	12,097		
		LEAF	1,122	713	1,892	3,564	7,291		
Farmwarkers Trained		PEP	507	331	1,075	1,914	3,827		
Farmworkers Trained		Jose Aprende	0	643	182	226	1,051		
		Heat Stress	1,204	1,446	3,837	6,234	12,721		
		TOTAL	3,932	5,241	10,682	17,132	37,015		

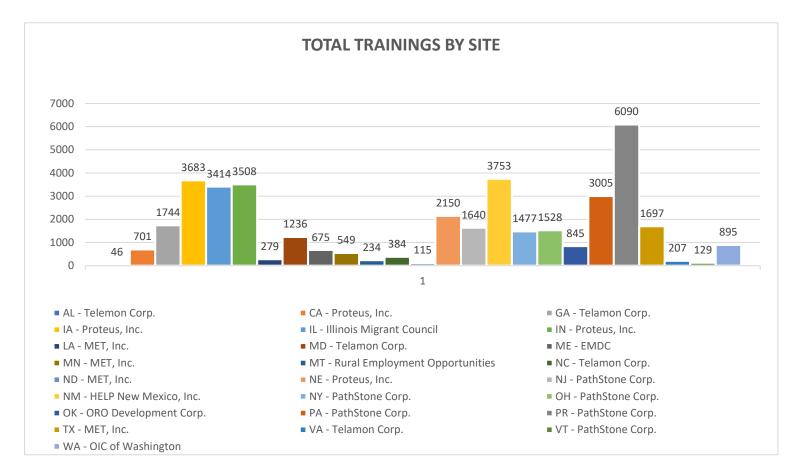
Overall, 64% of the farmworkers trained were Males, 26% were Females, and 10% Children. The children trained include attendance to WPS, LEAF, PEP, Jose Aprende and/or Heat Stress Prevention.

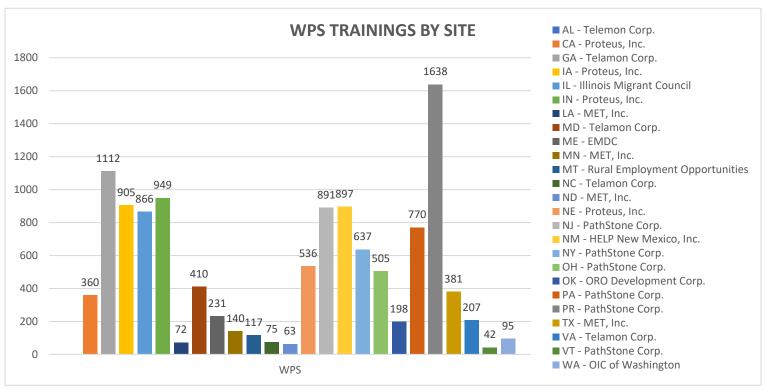
In addition to these trainings, AFOP's trainers provided other training topics to the farmworker community. Although it was not funded by EPA, AFOP thinks its important for EPA to know that AFOP's trainers is maximizing their time to provide training. Some of those trainings include: Food Safety, Hygiene, Tractor Safety. Sexual Harassment, and more.

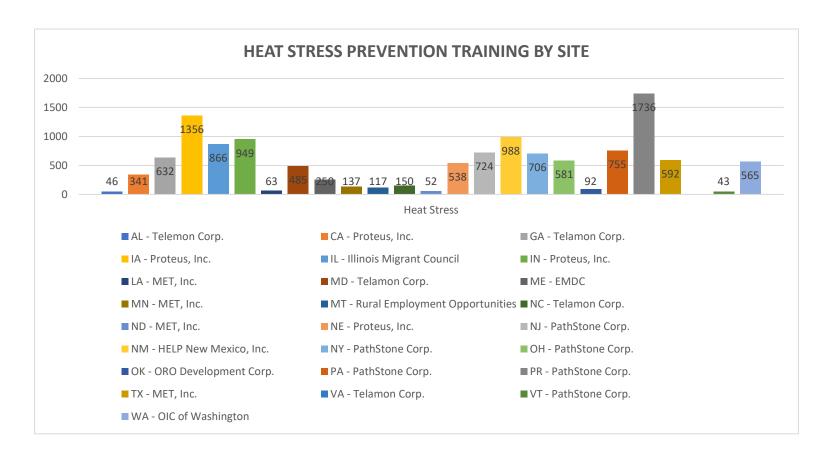
Migrant and seasonal farmworker children many times have no option than to work in the fields to help sustain their families. The children working in the field either don't have anyone to take care of them while parents work and are forced to work the fields, or their family's finances are so broken the child has no other option than to help harvest the fields in order to help with family's finances.

TOTAL FARMWORKER CHILDREN TRAINED BY TOPIC						
WPS	208					
Heat Stress Pev	398					
LEAF	158					
PEP	103					
Jose Aprende	1,051					
Other Trainings	19					
TOTAL FW CHILDREN TRAINED	1,729					

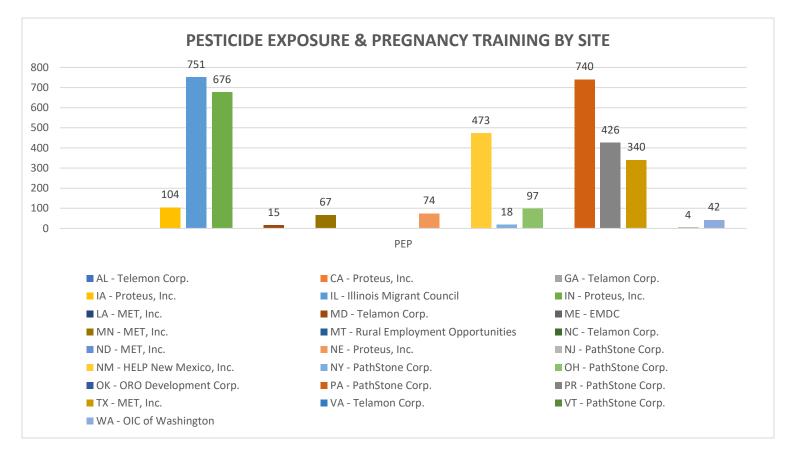
In a recent survey conducted by AFOP we learned about the reason farmworker children work in the fields. The children interviewed were from several states between the ages of 7-16. The top 4 reasons for working in the fields include: help pay bills, buy school materials, buy school clothes, buy food, send money to family members in other countries.

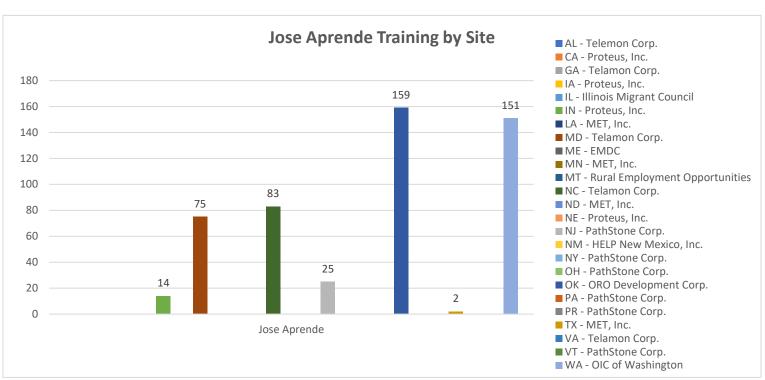












AFOP conducted multiple special events that include:

**National Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive (NLSSD)**: During the National Farmworker Awareness Week, AFOP sponsored its most successful annual National Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive. With over 30 partners (AFOP members, universities, advocate organizations, and more) and 150 of drop of locations in 34 states AFOP was able to collect 17,857 long-sleeve shirts that will help farmworkers mitigate its exposure to pesticides and heat therefore preventing a health issue. The shirts collected were distributed among farmworkers by our network of trainers after WPS and heat stress prevention training sessions.



of HCN's daily radio mini-programas -- Planeta Azul (Blue Planet) -- Fuente de Salud (Fountain of Health) -- for broadcast on HCN's national affiliate radio network on 169 affiliate stations. Below is a breakdown of results.

HCN Radio Affiliate Network Distribution (69 markets)

- Flight Dates: Mar 24- Mar 31, 2019
- Total Mini-Program Integrations for all flights: 10

Dates of flights : 3/24/19 – 3/31/19	Performance
Affiliate Radio Stations	169
Mini-Programa Integrations on HCN Radio Network	10
Individual Program Integrations	1,690
Estimated Impressions	3,753,000

AFOP also attended the radio show <u>Bienvenidos a América</u> which is taped and broadcasted live by radio to more than 80 radio stations in the United States as well as livestreamed on Facebook. In this show we discussed different ways workers can be exposed to pesticides and how to prevent exposure in the future. We also talked about the health effects of pesticides exposures, among other topics. We also had the

opportunity to promote our National Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive.

HCN's cost-effective and far-reaching solutions are designed to build more visibility for EPA-OPP and AFOP's pesticide education efforts and to help open doors for AFOP's trained educators to serve farmworker communities through the work they do to empower farmworkers to protect themselves against pesticides. The radio distribution was planned to coincide with National Farmworker Awareness Week.

The campaign included one weekly sponsorships on HCN's live call-in radio show via local affiliate stations in 46 markets nationwide:

- → Three (3) live mentions by show host José López Zamorano per show
- → Three (3) placements of the 0:60 radio productions during commercial breaks per show
- → One (1) interview

HCN Weekly Call-In Show Bienvenidos a América 1-Week Sponsorship Package Dates: 03/28/2019	Performance
Affiliate Radio Stations for BAA	71
Markets	48
Show Integrations for Broadcast on HCN Radio Network	7
Individual Airings	497
Estimated Impressions	210, 000

Pregnancy and Child Protection Awareness Month: During the month of May, AFOP celebrated Pregnancy and Child Protection Awareness Month, where AFOP's health & safety trainers provided Pesticide Exposure and Pregnancy training to a total of 291 farmworkers, 108 female farmworkers, during the month of May. The purpose of this "special event" is to place special emphasis on the subject of pesticide exposure and pregnancy and how the woman isn't the only one playing a role in protecting their children, including those in utero from pesticide exposure. Also, while highlighting ways to protect farmworkers (in particular women) and non-working family members from pesticides and their residues not simply while at work but also in the home.

Heat Stress Prevention Training Marathon (HSPTM) Week: During the week of July 14-20, 2019 AFOP Health & Safety Programs sponsored its annual National Heat Stress Prevention Training Marathon, with the purpose to educate and provide tools to farmworkers about how to prevent heat related illnesses. Trainers from around the country provided heat stress prevention training 2,332 farmworkers. During the trainings, the trainers distributed bandanas with key messages to help prevent a heat related illness, as well as pocket guides on what to do to prevent heat stress.





Heat Stress Prevention Training at a migrant camp in Nebraska during HSPTM week. In the photo you can also appreciate some boxes and a bag full of the long-sleeve shirts that were distribute.

The second picture is a heat stress prevention training in New Mexico

#### SITE VISITS

On the second quarter AFOP visited Alabama to conduct a site monitoring visit. During this visit, AFOP was able to provide technical assistance to the trainers, and reinforce what they have learned during their train the trainer via webinar. In addition, AFOP was able to hold several conversations with agricultural workers on the importance of limiting their exposure to pesticides. AFOP did not observe a training as it was raining and many employers cancelled work. At this time AFOP met with site coordinators to ensure paperwork and training processes are done correctly in order to comply with this grant and with the law. Also, provided support and direct assistance to trainer's questions and concerns.

On the third quarter, AFOP conducted a site monitoring visit in New Jersey. During this visit, AFOP was able to provide technical assistance to the trainers, and reinforce what they have learned during their train the trainer via webinar. In addition, AFOP was able to hold several conversations with agricultural workers on the importance of limiting their exposure to pesticides and clear some questions regarding the WPS new regulations.

On the fourth quarter, AFOP's conducted a monitoring site visit to Georgia, the state was in the midst of a heatwave with temperatures reaching triple digits. AFOP was able to observe a heat stress prevention training provided to H2A workers from Mexico. Due to the heatwave farmworkers at this particular grower were only working partial days to their chagrin. As a result, more farmworkers attended the training than were scheduled, leaving trainer to divide the group into smaller groups for training.

In addition, conducted a site monitoring visit in Maryland. During the visit, AFOP staff was able to observe multiple trainings including WPS, Heat Stress Prevention and LEAF. AFOP staff was able to interact with farmworkers questions and growers concerns.

Also, on the fourth, AFOP conducted a monitoring site visit to Pennsylvania that occurred towards the

end of apple harvesting season. Although, no training observation took place AFOP was able to conduct outreach with trainer and talk to some of the last farmworkers picking apples. Although, not a funded topic we did discuss ladder safety, worker rights, and of course heat stress prevention. A number of the farmworkers mentioned how in the mornings the orchards would be cold and damp but after climbing up and down the ladders and lugging sacks of apples through rows they quickly warmed shedding a lot of the clothing they had dawned. The workers AFOP encountered were migrant farmworkers from Mexico getting ready to head back home.

#### TRAINING MATERIAL

AFOP's training methodology of using the flipchart has been show to be more effective than providing a video. However, reinforcement of the lessons learned is always important. AFOP was able to distribute various take-home materials to ensure farmworkers incorporate best health practices when in contact with pesticides and/or heat.

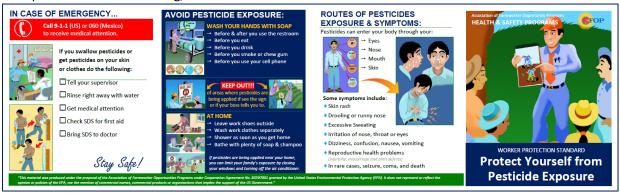
Some of the materials distributed include the following:

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Pesticide Safety brochure	100	500	3,000	4,000	7,600
Heat Stress Prevention brochure	100	500	3,000	4,000	7,600
Laundry bags	25	100	2,000	3,000	5,125
Magnets	100	100	1,000	3,000	4,200

In addition, AFOP developed a new pocket size brochure for the WPS and heat stress prevention training. The new WPS pocket size brochure includes some of the most important points on how to prevent pesticide exposure while working in the fields and what to do in case of an emergency. We hope this will serve as a reinforcement to the information farmworkers received during the training. While the heat stress prevention pocket size brochure includes the signs and symptoms of heat stress, prevention information and what to do in case of an emergency.

Both brochures are English/Spanish and utilizes the images from its corresponding flipchart. Here are the copies:

### WPS pocket size brochure Eng/SPA





### HSP pocket size brochure Eng/Spa:



### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Throughout this year AFOP continued raising awareness about pesticide exposure health and safety hazards in the work place and at home. This was accomplished by posting on social media, attending events, writing on AFOP's blog, and others.

**Blog**: This year, AFOP was able to publish a total of 63 articles on its WordPress Blog platform. At the end of every month AFOP would send, a summary of the articles posted on each month. This summary was sent to AFOP's social media followers and subscribers (995 subscribers) using MailChimp. Blogs are usually published once a week (on Wednesdays). However, at times AFOP might change the day to align it with a "special" day/date.

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Total blogs published by quarter	21	16	14	12	63

**Social Media**: AFOP uses social media to raise awareness about pesticide exposure and other occupational, environmental, and social issues involving the farmworkers community. However, AFOP's main focus is to provide information about the health and safety issues that may affect farmworkers as a result of pesticide and heat exposure.

Usually, AFOP's posts include:

- "memes" with simple information about pesticide and heat exposure
- photos of trainers in the fields providing trainings
- promotion of our national training program
- EPA article related to different efforts
- Tragic incidents that involve farmworkers (lawsuits, death, etc)
- Announcements of special activities and outcomes
- Announcements of blogs posts

AFOP was able to increase its number of followers in all social media platforms which include Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

	# of followers at beginning of PY4	# of followers at end of PY4
Facebook	680	915
Twitter	702	763
Instagram	350	362

**YouTube**: AFOP developed and published various videos covering different aspects of pesticide exposure. Some of the most relevant videos include:

- 10 Tips to Avoid Pesticide Exposure
- Keeping your Home Safe from Pesticides
- Farmworker Awareness

## **CHALLENGES/DIFFICULTIES**

AFOP did not encounter any major challenge or difficulties that might hinder the progress of any of the grant objectives. However, we did have some challenges by losing our health and safety program coordinator/communication staff. We were not able to meet all the video and newsletter goals for some quarters. But we were able to catch up.

## **STATUS OF DELIVERABLES**

Below is a summary of the deliverables for the entire year.

TRACK OF DELIVERABLES									
Deliverab	le		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	
Site Recruitment			29	24	23	28			
Farmworke	rs Train	ied	52,443	44,915	42,458	37,015		176,803	
Train-the-T	rainer C	Course	10	18	11	10		49	
Site Visits			4	6	4	4		18	
	PST b	rochure	6,000	7,000	100	7,600		20,700	
Take home	Heat :	Stress brochure	6,000	7,000	100	7,600		20,700	
materials	Launc	dry bags	5,000	5,000	25	5,125		15,150	
	PST M	lagnets	5,500	7,000	100	4,200		16,800	
Monthly Ne (Sazón Para			10	7	1	0		18	
Communication Plan with HCN			PSA's 4 broadcasted in multiple radio stations – over 3 million impressions	PSA's broadcasted in multiple radio stations – over 3 million impressions	PSA's broadcasted in multiple radio stations – over 3 million impressions	PSA's broadcasted in multiple radio stations – over 3 million impressions			
		Facebook	Increased 14%	739 followers	680 followers	915 followers			
Social Medi	-	Twitter	Increased 11%	737 followers	702 followers	763 followers			
Plan	111011	Instagram	Increased 16%	349 followers	322 followers	362 followers			
		WordPress (blog)	65 articles	71 articles	21 articles	63 articles			
Educational Audiovisual materials (video on YouTube, and social media platforms)		33	12	5	5		55		
Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive (March)		8,897	12,126	13,062	17,857		51,942		
Pregnancy and Child Protection Awareness Month (May)		553	420	1,219	291		2,483		
Heat Stress Marathon V		ition Training uly)	2,879	1,779	1,443	2,332		8,433	

# **CONCLUSION**

AFOP's Health & Safety Programs staff and trainers did an amazing job throughout this year. AFOP exceed its planned goals, and took over other activities to reinforce the message of trainings.

AFOP also conducted a program evaluation with trainers to ensure training topics, materials, paperwork,

online database are effective. This will allow AFOP to improve the program's methodologies and procedures that will help the program in the fifth year of this cooperative agreement.

AFOP looks forward to continue working hard on the fifth year of this cooperative agreement by continuing to impact the farmworker community with the hopes we can provide them the tools needed to have a healthier and safer life.